

Look Who's Composting!

Apartment and Condo Food Waste Collection

April 2008
Update

Composting!

**Good for the
Earth.**

**Good for
Business.**



**Why Waste a
Good Thing?**

Sign up today!

206-684-3976



City of Seattle



Would you like to reduce your garbage, help the environment, or possibly cut costly problems with in-sink food disposals? The City of Seattle invites your property to participate in a new food scraps collection program, available for 35 apartment and condominium properties in 2008. Seattle Public Utilities selected your property as a possible site due to your successful recycling.

In 2007-08, nine properties took part in the first six month phase of this new program and diverted more than 9,000 pounds of food waste from the landfill. Instead of throwing food into the garbage, tenants sorted food and food soiled paper (such as pizza boxes) into labeled carts. The material was collected weekly and delivered to a local facility where it was processed into compost for local parks and gardens. Please see their stories below.

Epicenter

This mixed-use building is located in Fremont, with retail at street level and 130 apartment units above. The Epicenter's manager and tenants were excited to start recycling food scraps, and continue to be enthusiastic. For tenant convenience, food collection carts are located indoors, in recycle/trash rooms located on the 3rd and 5th floors. Maintenance staff moves the containers outside each week for pickup. Michelle Casebeer, Assistant Community Manager, says, **"Residents love this program and feel it is extremely important."**

Amesbury Court

This 114-unit north Seattle complex has an ethnically diverse population, so Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) created **educational materials in six languages**. Carts for these tenants are located outside, next to the garbage and recycling dumpsters, at opposite ends of the 3-building complex. Manager Michael Bue says, "I would absolutely recommend this program – **it saves money for the property because of the reduced wear and tear on garbage disposals.**"



Imperial Crown

Since the Imperial Crown had a history of illegal dumping, the manager was concerned about contamination in the food waste cart. However, he and his supportive tenants sent 440 gallons of food to be composted with **no instances of contamination over four months of participation!** This building was provided with educational materials in English and Spanish, because the manager estimated that almost half of the tenants were Spanish-speaking. Manager Andy Zavada says, **"The program is great! It was never a burden for me as property manager."**

Guinevere

Tenants at this multi-use building in Greenwood asked for food scraps composting, so the manager was happy to learn of this new City program. The Guinevere promoted the new food scraps collection service to tenants through their building newsletter. The manager was **especially excited about getting the "many" pizza boxes out of the garbage.**

Of all the pilot project properties, the 139-unit Guinevere recycles the most — an average of 125 gallons per week. Manager Julia Welch says, **"The tenants are extremely happy with the program and relieved that it is finally available to apartments and condos."**



Bagley Lofts Condominiums

Residents of this Wallingford condominium building **asked to be included in this program as soon as they heard about it.** One tenant is a diligent on-site "champion," distributing educational materials, watching for problems, and encouraging participation. On pick-up day, the food material collector uses a security card to access the carts that are located in the indoor parking garage.

Chameleon

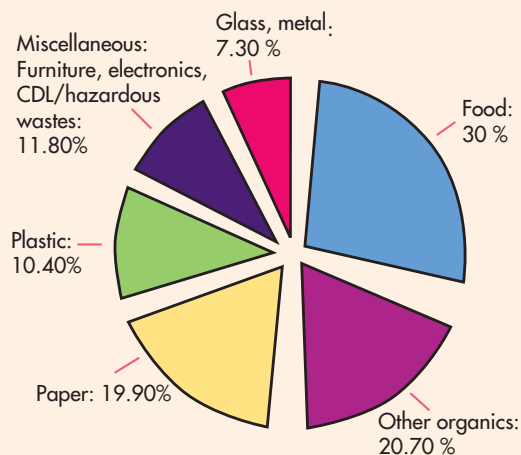
This north Seattle building manager was **motivated to start food scraps collection service after paying \$60,000 for plumbing bills related to clogged drain lines.** Corn husks and peach pits, which cause problems with garbage disposals, can be composted instead.



Other successful participating properties include: Maple Leaf Plaza (Lake City Way); Watermarke at Wallingford; and Pinehurst Apartments.

Food scraps make up over 30% of residential multi-family garbage. Greg Conner, the manager of Pinehurst Apartments says, **"The amount of garbage that we produce is frightening. It is much better to compost it than to send it to the landfill."**

MULTI-FAMILY GARBAGE COMPOSITION



Benefits

- ✓ Three months free service
- ✓ Free liner bags for the cart
- ✓ Free translated materials
- ✓ Free compostable bag samples for tenants
- ✓ Free technical assistance
- ✓ Meet tenants' recycling desires
- ✓ Keep food out of the landfill
- ✓ Advise the City of Seattle on program improvements

What food scraps can be composted?

Virtually all food scraps and food-related paper, including:

- ✓ Fruit and vegetable trimmings
- ✓ Meat, chicken, fish, shell fish and bones
- ✓ Eggs, cheese and other dairy products
- ✓ Grains, breads and pasta
- ✓ Coffee grounds, filters and tea bags
- ✓ Pizza boxes and food soiled paper
- ✓ Waxed paper and waxed cardboard
- ✓ Uncoated paper plates (such as Chinex; thin ruffled edged), napkins
- ✓ House plants (no pots)
- ✓ No fat, oil, or grease

Instead of going 310 miles by train to the landfill, sorted food scraps are delivered to a local facility where they are processed into compost. This compost is used on local parks and gardens: good for the Earth, good for the environment, and the right thing to do. "Why waste a good thing?"